

March 2, 2022

Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Raymond Memmott and I am currently a Dispatcher with West Haven 911. I am writing to show my support for HB 5251, Dispatchers Portal to Portal Workers Compensation Coverage, however, with one minor change. The wording in the proposal makes it so that the dispatcher or Dept. of Corrections employee would only be covered in circumstances when nonessential employees are excused from working, but it is my opinion that we should be covered ANY time we are going to or from work, on any given day. If a police officer or firefighter is covered, so should the dispatcher whose job it is to keep those other responders safe. We are traveling the same roads, in the same conditions, and often times, to the same buildings as those who are already covered.

For too long, dispatchers have been looked down at or completely overlooked when it comes to mental health, workers compensation, and equal acknowledgement as a first responder. We have shown that we truly are the First, First Responder and seek the same benefits as those whom we work alongside of each and every day, just on a different side of the radio. It only makes sense to encompass all essential workers in our line of work.

I look forward to seeing this bill being passed out of committee and called to the House and the Senate.

Sincerely,

Raymond C. Memmott

City of West Haven, 911